Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T PONTA DELGADA 0138

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: AZOREAN SEPARATISTS OVERTURES

REF: PONTA DELGADA 134

- 1. ANTONIO MANUEL GOMES DEMENESES, A CIVIL ENGINEER ACTIVE IN MAUVA AND NOW CLAIMING MEMBERSHIP IN FLA (SEE REFTEL), HAS INFORMED PARRIS THAT DELEGATION COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES MAPA, FLA/MIRA COMMAND PONTA DELGADA POLITICAL PARTIES PPD, CDS, AND PDC, INTENDS MAKE FORMAL REQUEST TO CONSULATE THAT USG BACK AZOREAN SEPARATIST EFFORTS. THOUGH ANY AID WELCOME, GROUP SPECIFICALLY HOPES SECURE US POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT IN UNITED NATIONS AND FOREIGN CAPITOLS FOR AZOREAN CAMPAIGN TO FORCE PORTUGAL AGREE TO REFERENDUM ON INDEPENDENCE. SEPARATISTS CERTAIN THAT "80 PERCENT" OF AZOREANS WOULD OPT FOR INDEPENDENCE IN SUCH REFERENDUM.
- 2. GOMES DEMENESES SAID THAT, UNLESS PROGRESS TOWARD REFERENDUM AND/OR INDEPENDENCE MADE SOON, MODERATES LIKE HIMSELF WILL BE UNABLE RESTRAIN "EXTREMISTS" NOW DEMANDING IMMEDIATE, VIOLENT ACTION TO ATTAIN INDEPENDENCE. HE CONFIRMED THAT FLA AND MIRA DIFFERENT NAMES FOR SAME GROUP AND THAT GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR BURNINGS REPORTED REFTEL. HE EXPECTS SIMILAR INCIDENTS TO FOLLOW.

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EM I INFORMED GOMES THAT I NOT INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH

DELEGATION; THAT USG POSITION RE AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE ONE OF COMPLETE NEUTRALITY. HE SAID THAT DELEGATION MIGHT ATTEMPT SEE ME ANYWAY. UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED, I WILL REPLY IN ABOVE TERMS TO ANY FUTURE OVERTURES BY SEPARATISTS. DETAILED MEMCON FOLLOWS. PARRIS

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